

Annual WUS conference

THE World University Service in Australia is holding its 50th annual conference in Melbourne.

The conference began yesterday and will end on Sunday.

I interviewed the executive secretary of WUS in Australia, Brendan O'Dwyer.

"WUS is an international association of university staff, students and administrators," he said.

Two main concerns

"We are concerned with questions of social development and human liberation."

Brendan said the theme of the conference would be:

• Tertiary education in the 1970s.

• The role of students and higher institutes of learning in international development.

He said the conference would "formulate a role for Australian universities in the development of the Third World and work on an action program."

(The Third World countries are the developing nations of the world — mainly in Africa, Latin America and Asia).

Brendan said that emphasis would be given to alerting public opinion to Australia's responsibility to the developing world.

"This particularly applies to Papua-New Guinea and South-East Asia. We need a more realistic foreign aid program," he said.

"WUS believes that a university, be-

cause of its accumulation of knowledge and understanding, must contribute to solving the problems facing society."

Brendan said the conference would also "draw up a plan to mobilise public opinion to put pressure on governments toward the eventual eradication of poverty and illiteracy in Australia and overseas."

Reforms needed

"We will be looking towards reforms in our own education system to bring about changes of attitude."

"We believe that the present courses offered by universities need overhauling because they ignore the most vital issues facing man."



• BRENDAN O'DWYER

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